

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing coverage and storage of footwear comprising:
 - a first unitary piece having a first unitary lower peripheral edge and a first unitary upper peripheral edge;
 - a second unitary piece having an outer peripheral edge, wherein the outer peripheral edge is attached to the lower peripheral edge of the first unitary piece to form a cavity within the attached pieces; and
 - an opening and closing mechanism attached to the upper peripheral edge of the first unitary piece, the mechanism being capable of closing to encapsulate the footwear within the cavity.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further wherein the first unitary piece comprises:
 - a right shoe cover member having an upper peripheral edge and a lower peripheral edge;
 - a left shoe cover member having an upper peripheral edge and a lower peripheral edge, wherein the right shoe cover member and the left shoe cover member

are attached at a joint section to form a single unitary member, and further wherein the upper peripheral edge of the right shoe cover member and the upper peripheral edge of the left shoe cover member form a first unitary upper peripheral edge, and further wherein the lower peripheral edge of the right shoe cover member and the lower peripheral edge of the left shoe cover member form a first lower peripheral edge.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the opening and closing mechanism comprises an interlocking mechanism.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the interlocking mechanism is a zipper assembly.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising: a tab located and attached generally to the joint section.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the tab further comprises: a hoop portion to facilitate hanging, storing, or transporting the apparatus.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising:
a secondary hanging loop affixed to the first unitary piece or the second unitary piece.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second unitary piece is attached to the first unitary piece via threaded connection.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first unitary piece and the second unitary piece comprise nylon and lycra material.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of covering and storing footwear comprising:

providing a first unitary piece having a first unitary lower peripheral edge and a first unitary upper peripheral edge;

providing a second unitary piece having an outer peripheral edge;

attaching the outer peripheral edge of the second unitary piece to the lower peripheral edge of the first unitary piece to generally form a cavity within the attached pieces;

providing an opening and closing mechanism;

placing the opening and closing mechanism over the cavity and attaching the mechanism to the upper peripheral edge of the first unitary piece;

inserting an article of footwear into the cavity via the mechanism in an open position;

securing the article of footwear ~~within the cavity~~ by closing the mechanism to encapsulate the footwear within the cavity.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

forming the first unitary piece from a right shoe cover member having an upper peripheral edge and a lower peripheral edge and a left shoe cover member having an upper peripheral edge and a lower peripheral edge;

attaching the right shoe cover member and the left shoe cover member at a joint section to form a single unitary member such that the upper peripheral edge of the right shoe cover member and the upper peripheral edge of the left shoe cover member form a first unitary upper peripheral edge, and further such that the lower peripheral edge of the right shoe cover member and the lower peripheral edge of the left shoe cover member form a first lower peripheral edge.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the mechanism comprises an interlocking mechanism.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the interlocking mechanism comprises a zipper assembly.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
providing and attaching a tab generally to the joint section.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the tab comprises a hoop portion to facilitate hanging, storing, or transporting the apparatus.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
hanging or transporting the inserted article of footwear via the hoop portion.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:
providing and attaching a secondary hanging loop to the first or second unitary piece.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 further comprising:
hanging or transporting the inserted article of footwear via the secondary hanging loop.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

providing and attaching a carrying strap to the first unitary piece, said carrying strap having a plurality of end portions to support additional attachments.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

inserting the a carrying strap within the cavity;

providing a slot in the right shoe cover member and the left shoe cover member;

feeding the end portions through a respective slot from within the cavity.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the attachments include D-rings or hooks.

24. (Currently Amended) A system for covering and storing footwear comprising:

~~a first unitary piece having a first unitary lower peripheral edge and a first unitary upper peripheral edge;~~

~~a second unitary piece having an outer peripheral edge;~~

~~means for attaching the outer peripheral edge of the second unitary piece to the lower peripheral edge of the first unitary piece to generally form a cavity within the attached pieces;~~

means for encapsulating the footwear within a cavity, the encapsulating means including means for opening and closing the cavity encapsulating means to gain access to said cavity; and

means for attaching the opening and closing means over the cavity and to the upper peripheral edge of the first unitary piece means for promoting luster to the footwear within said cavity.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24 27, further comprising: means for hanging or carrying attached to the first unitary piece.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25, further comprising:
secondary means for hanging or carrying attached to the first unitary piece or second unitary piece.

27. (New) The system of claim 24, wherein the encapsulating means further comprises:
a first unitary piece having a first unitary lower peripheral edge and a first unitary upper peripheral edge;
a second unitary piece having an outer peripheral edge;

means for attaching the outer peripheral edge of the second unitary piece to the lower peripheral edge of the first unitary piece to generally form said cavity within the attached pieces;

means for attaching the means for opening and closing the encapsulating means over said cavity and to the upper peripheral edge of the first unitary piece.

28. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

promoting the luster of the footwear secured within the cavity via the first unitary piece.